

to the defence they are wont to make against thieves: he then describes very particularly the Hollander's mode of making outside window-shutters so secure by fitting them very closely to the reveals, and by a careful arrangement of the bolts and hinges,—precautions which, however necessary, certainly do not lead us to entertain any exalted idea of Dutch honesty in the seventeenth century. Some further suggestions are then made for rendering doors and windows secure both from rogues within and without: a suggestion, even, is made for the better securing a house against "thieves who do untile houses." We have then some remarks on porches, which he says serve to distribute alms to the poor, but also prove often cumbersome, being the receptacle of foul creatures, who, as soon as they are gotten into a court, make it their rendezvous. The entrance to a hall, he says, is not so proper in the middle as at the end, or at all events, set as much as possible near the end. He urges, that the principal floor of a building should not be level with the ground; he then introduces "his story of one in authority, who, passing by a town wherein the people generally did not outlive their thirtieth year, caused all the backs of their houses to be made the front; and the windows which were forward to be made up, to free them from that infectious air that did shorten their lives, which had its effect accordingly, and it is therefore I do so much insist on the point of placing a building where good ayre is, and that neither chimnies nor doors may be so placed as to serve for the attraction of infectious air, which kills more than the sword, or the sea overturns ships." A truth, which, although uttered in 1663, we seem now, in 1849, only just beginning to perceive the importance of. The book closes with some desultory remarks of no great importance as to the choice of clerks of works and surveyors, from which I need only quote the following portion:—

"Let all owners [of houses, he means] be prepared to repeat, whether they build or not, for it is like the fate of many who marry, or marry not. Let both the one and the other lay, as in a scale, their several charges, vexations, cares, labours, and pleasures, they will find this to be true, viz., if they build they must be at great present disbursements, vex with as many oversights, and to be overreach'd in bargains concerning their materials. If they build not, they are subject to the inconvenience of houses built according to the fancies of [other] owners; and when they shall cast up the sums of money spent in the rent, besides many chargeable alterations, they shall find that they might have built a better and more fit habitation for them and their posterity."

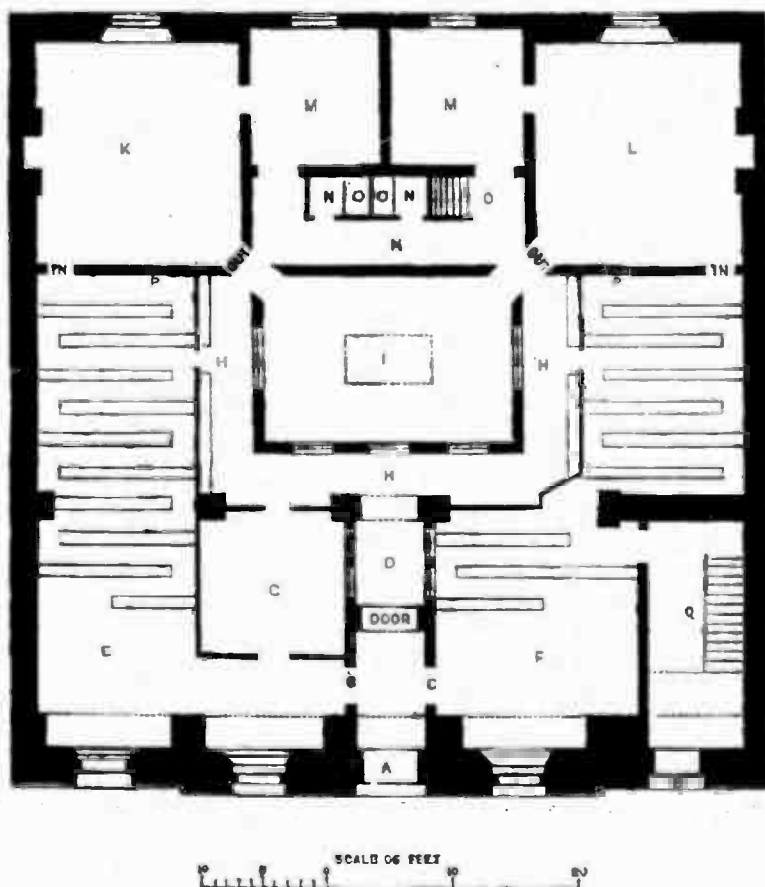
SYDNEY SMIRKE.

THE LATE MR. ROBERT SIBLEY.

WE record with regret the sudden decease (on the 31st ult.) of Mr. Robert Sibley, when apparently in perfect health, and at the age of 59. But a few days ago he wrote us on the subject of burials in towns, and the desecration of the dead, and now he himself lies in the lone grave. Mr. Sibley was the county surveyor for many years, but resigned the appointment for that of the district surveyorship of Clerkenwell. He was, besides, surveyor to the Company of Ironmongers. He was a member of the Council of Civil Engineers. Amongst the buildings which he erected were the Hanwell County Lunatic Asylum, the Light Horse Volunteer Barrack in Gray's-Inn-lane, now a refuge for the destitute, and several small bridges, among which was Brentford. He also constructed the large iron wharf at London-bridge. The interim appointment to the district surveyorship has been conferred on his son, Mr. R. L. Sibley, who is a candidate for the office permanently. The election will take place on the 19th.

ST. STEPHEN'S, WALBROOK.—The financial disputes in Walbrook being at last settled, we understand that the parish have now funds in hand to repair and adorn the church. We trust that no time will be lost in commencing this much-needed work, and that it will be done under proper direction, and thoroughly.

PLAN OF DISPENSARY, CLEVELAND-PLACE, BATH.



PLAN OF A DISPENSARY.

ANNEXED is the plan of the dispensary in Cleveland-place East, Bath, the arrangement of which seems very convenient, and may serve as a suggestive type. The annexed references will explain the appropriation of the apartments and show the modes of access.

- A Public entrance.
- B Private ditto.
- C Patients' ditto.
- D Visitors' ditto.
- E Room for physician's patients.
- F Room for surgeon's patients.
- G New patients.
- H H H H Passages.
- I Dispensing-room, with lantern light.
- K Physician's room.
- L Surgeon's ditto.
- M M Private ditto.
- N N Water closets.
- O Stairs to hot-water furnace.
- P P Ventilators.
- Q House stairs.

It will be seen that the physician's patients go in on the left-hand side of the hall, and taking a seat wait their turn to be admitted to his room (K) by the door marked "In:" having received his prescription, they retire by the door marked "Out," obtain the medicine at the window of the dispensary-room (I), and leave the dispensary by D.

The surgeons' patients take the same course on the opposite side.

The building is warmed by hot-water pipes. Above there is a large committee-room, with sitting-room and three chambers.

In few ways can the affluent better aid their less fortunate brethren than by founding and affording support to DISPENSARIES.

PUBLIC NECESSARIES.—Nothing has yet been done in this respect, and probably will not be till the Health Commissioners take up the matter. It is one of very serious import, and is necessarily denied the advantage of public discussion.

THE ROMAN PERIOD OF GREEK DECORATIVE ART.

IMPORTANCE OF SYSTEM IN STYLE, AND OF TASTE AND SUBORDINATION IN ORNAMENT.

IN pursuance of his course of lectures on decorative art, at the Government School of Design, Somerset House, Mr. Worsum proceeded, on Friday, the 25th, to follow up his remarks on the Periclean age of Greek art (rule p. 112), with some account of its progress, of decline rather, under Roman auspices.

In the last lecture, said he, we reached the culminating point of Greek decorative art, illustrated in the Parthenon, the Erectheum, and the Choric monument of Lysicrates. We have now to trace its decline, or point out that deterioration of style which immediately followed the period of Alexander, and which has caused this later age to be termed the period of decline.

The designation appears to be just, though, as regards the mere production of ornamental works, it exhibits not only a more profuse expenditure, but even more energetic enterprise, in, perhaps, every species of ornamental art, than any preceding age. The decline was in the art—in the manner in which the decorations were applied—not in the ornaments themselves. These were the same, and, in most cases, equally well executed; but that quality which we term taste—that is, judicious selection and arrangement—seems to have experienced a total revolution. Quantity was apparently mistaken for quality; and the whole decorative art of this period, viewed generally, well illustrates that deficiency of power in the artistic mind which Apelles so aptly exposed. If the Roman works are not beautiful, they are at least rich. When I say Roman works, I hy no means allude merely to works executed at Rome, but to all efforts of this period in any part of the ancient world to which Roman influence extended. And from the time of the conquest of Greece, about a century and a half after Alexander, few great works were under-